an optical deflector having a deflecting reflection surface adjacent to positions where [images as] said plurality of line images are formed for deflecting [said plurality of light fluxes] the plural light beams;

a second image-formation system for separating the [plurality of light fluxes] plural light beams deflected by said optical deflector from each other in a direction of auxiliary scanning on a scanned surface and converging the [plurality of light fluxes] plural light beams as a plurality of light spots for optically scanning said scanned surface in accordance with deflection of the plural light [fluxes] beams; wherein

the plurality of light spots on the scanned surface optically scan scanning lines adjacent to each other on plural consecutive scans, and

a lateral magnification β in a direction corresponding to the auxiliary scanning [in a composite system] of the optical [system] scanner between said light source [for a multi-beam] and said scanned surface is as follows:

$$2<\beta\leq 8.5$$

[and the plurality of light spots on the scanned surface optically scan scanning lines adjacent to each other].

5. (Once Amended Since Filing) A multi-beam optical scanner according to claim 1,[;] [wherein said] further comprising a coupling lens [is a collimate lens] for [collimating a plurality of] coupling at least one light [fluxes] beam of the plural light beams from said light source [for a multi-beam at the same time].

~~12.~~ 9. (Twice Amended Since Filing) A multi-beam optical scanner according to claim 5, wherein said coupling lens is a collimate lens for collimating the plural light beams from said light source at the same time.

12~~13~~. (Twice Amended Since Filing) A multi-beam optical scanner comprising:

plural light beams;

a first image-formation system for focusing the plural light beams in a direction corresponding to auxiliary scanning and forming the plural light beams into images as a plurality of line images each having a longer side in a direction corresponding to main scanning;

an optical deflector having a deflecting reflection surface adjacent to positions where said plurality of line images are formed for deflecting the plural light beams;

a second image-formation system for separating the plural light beams deflected by said optical deflector from each other in a direction of auxiliary scanning on a scanned surface and converging the plural light beams as a plurality of light spots for optically scanning said scanned surface in accordance with deflection of the plural light beams; wherein

the plurality of light spots on the scanned surface optically scan scanning lines adjacent to each other on plural consecutive scans, and

a lateral magnification β in a direction corresponding to the auxiliary scanning of the optical scanner is as follows:

$2<\beta<8.5$.

13~~14~~. (Twice Amended Since Filing) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a multi-beam optical scanner including:

a light source for providing plural light beams;

a first image-formation system for focusing the plural light beams from the light source in a direction corresponding to auxiliary scanning and forming the plural light beams

into images as a plurality of line images each having a longer side in a direction corresponding to main scanning;

an optical deflector having a deflecting reflection surface adjacent to positions where said plurality of line images are formed for deflecting the plural light beams;

a second image-formation system for separating the plural light beams deflected by said optical deflector from each other in a direction of auxiliary scanning on a scanned surface and converging the plural light beams as a plurality of light spots for optically scanning said scanned surface in accordance with deflection of the plural light beams; wherein

the plurality of light spots on the scanned surface optically scan scanning lines adjacent to each other on plural consecutive scans, and

a lateral magnification β in a direction corresponding to the auxiliary scanning of the optical scanner is as follows;

$2<\beta<8.5$.

~~15.~~ 14. (Twice Amended Since Filing) An image forming apparatus comprising;

a multi-beam optical scanner including;

plural light beams;

a first image-formation system for focusing the plural light beams in a direction corresponding to auxiliary scanning and forming the plural light beams into images as a plurality of line images each having a longer side in a direction corresponding to main scanning;

an optical deflector having a deflecting reflection surface adjacent to positions where said plurality of line images are formed for deflecting the plural light beams;